

No new matter is added by this amendment. A check in the amount of \$400.00 for the fee for two additional independent claims is enclosed.

Response

The Examiner has allowed claims 26 and 27 and has indicated that claims 19 and 20 would be allowable if written in independent form. Accordingly, in the foregoing amendment, applicants have rewritten claims 19 and 20 as new claims 32 and 33, respectively, and cancelled original claims 19 and 20. Applicants have included a check for the fees associated with the two additional independent claims.

Background

Before discussing the Examiner's specific ground of rejection, it would be useful to briefly review the claimed invention, which is generally directed to a system and method for a container carrier system for use in an automated process for filling containers of multiple sizes. The carrier system includes one or more pallets, each pallet comprising a plurality of compartments, each compartment sized to hold a baseline container size. The system also includes a plurality of pucks of one or more sizes, configured to be selectively and temporarily loaded into the baseline compartments to hold one or more additional container sizes. Thus, each pallet can be repetitively configured to hold various desired combinations of containers of different sizes by selectively loading and unloading pucks from individual compartments in the pallet.

Response to Grounds of Rejection

In the pending Office Action, claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 11, 13 and 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Levey et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,566,695, or under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious and unpatentable over Levey. Claims 3, 5, 8, 9, 10,